



Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman, 8th FW/PA

Senior Airman Lawrence Valdez (right), 8th Services Squadron, serves a free dinner to Tech. Sgt. Gene Parrill, 80th Fighter Squadron, at the SonLight Inn.

## Kunsan facility offers home-style atmosphere

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman and  
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Tired of smoke filled rooms? Do you want a nice, free home-cooked meal? If you answered yes to either of these questions, Kunsan has the perfect place—the SonLight Inn.

The goal for the facility is to be a “home away from home,” according to Master Sgt. George McQuire, 8th Maintenance Squadron, and one of the Inn’s volunteers who operate it. The SonLight Inn’s trademark symbol, a light-house, sheds light on the volunteers’ mission.

“We’re the beacon of the base,” McQuire said. “We look to draw anybody and everybody from the base who want to come and relax and not be hounded.”

About 30 volunteers, better known as “Innkeepers,” keep the Inn clean and assist guests. The volunteers work as few or as many hours that they can, McQuire said.

“We’re here to assist whenever anybody comes in and to talk to people,” he said.

One of the biggest draws to the Inn is the free Friday night meal. Designed as an alternative to fast food or barrack’s cooking, and to provide a hot home-cooked style meal, a different Kunsan unit prepares and serves the meal each week.

“The chapel keeps a calendar and volunteers from different units come in and prepare a meal,” McQuire said. “Different squadrons are known for a special type of meal.”

Although prepared by unit volunteers in the Inn’s kitchen, which has every cooking apparatus one could need, the 8th Services Squadron provides about \$150 per week to pay for the meals, which comes from Nonappropriated Funds, said Maj. Kerri Cole, 8th SVS commander.

“We can use NAF because it’s geared toward troop morale,” she said. “It’s a great compliment to all the other quality-of-life programs at Kunsan.”

A recent visitor to the SonLight Inn said he “wouldn’t miss the meal.”

“It’s homemade and prepared with care,” said Tech. Sgt. Todd Smith, 80th Fighter Squadron. “I usually eat dinner and

then hang out on these nice couches they have here and watch the movies. It’s a very relaxed atmosphere.”

On a Friday or Saturday night, visitors to the Inn can lounge on one of the many full-size couches while watching movies with ratings no higher than PG on a 52-inch surround-sound television. Often visitors are so comfortable that they drift off to sleep.

“We’ll have people come in and lay down on the couch, watch a movie and fall to sleep, just like back home,” McQuire said.

Besides movies, visitors can log on to one of three Internet-capable computers for morale purposes, such as e-mailing family back home. However, users must have an active Kunsan local area network account, McQuire said. Additionally, game wizards can test their skills on three additional “gaming” computers, even without a LAN account.

What’s more, Kunsan members can come face-to-face with their loved ones back home with a videophone. Innkeepers schedule users based upon the time family members can use a videophone connection at their home unit.

Although the services listed previously are the most widely used at the Inn, visitors have access to various sports equipment including baseballs, bats, basketballs and ping-pong paddles, balls and tables. What’s more, if a quiet reading room is desired, visitors can snuggle up in a soft chair, choose from a variety of books and read.

“It’s a library atmosphere,” McQuire said.

Whether it’s a quiet room to read, a good movie or a home-cooked meal, the SonLight Inn’s keepers strive to bring a little bit of home to Kunsan’s warriors who are serving away from their families and friends.

“We’re here for the base (people) to get away from the clubs, A-Town and to get out of their room,” McQuire said. “Everyone here is on a personal basis. We want people to feel at home here.”

The facility is temporarily closed because it’s the Accident Investigation Board workcenter for the June 12 F-16 accident.

For more information about SonLight Inn activities or operating hours, call 782-4300.



1st Lt. Diane Matti, 8th Comptroller Flight, tickles the ivory at the SonLight Inn.